

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A conductive carbonaceous-fiber fabric which has a thickness of from 0.05 to 1 mm, a weight per a unit area of from 60 to 250 g/m², a bending resistance (L) as determined by the 45° Cantilever method of 6 cm or higher, and an in-plane volume resistivity of 0.2 Ωcm or lower[[.]],

wherein the fabric comprises a binder or a product of carbonization of the binder in an amount of from 10 to 40% by weight and comprises carbonaceous fibers bonded to one another with the binder or its carbonization product through point contact,

wherein the binder or its carbonization product is present discontinuously as particles on the surface of the fibers, and

wherein said conductive carbonaceous-fiber fabric is obtained by weaving the yarns of carbonaceous fibers.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The conductive carbonaceous-fiber fabric as claimed in claim 1, which has an air permeability as determined in accordance with JIS L 1096, method A (frazil method) of from 50 to 150 cm³/cm²•sec, the air permeability being a measure of the gas-diffusing properties of the fabric.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The conductive carbonaceous-fiber fabric as claimed in claim 1, which has a thickness of from 0.1 to 0.5 mm.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The conductive carbonaceous-fiber fabric as claimed in claim 1, which has a weight per a unit area of from 80 to 200 g/m².

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The conductive carbonaceous-fiber fabric as claimed in claim 1, which has a bending resistance (L) as determined by the 45° Cantilever method of 8 cm or higher.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The conductive carbonaceous-fiber fabric as claimed in claim 1, which comprises carbonaceous fiber monofilaments having a diameter of from 6 to 50 μm .

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The conductive carbonaceous-fiber fabric as claimed in claim 1, which has an in-plane volume resistivity of 0.07 Ωcm or lower.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The conductive carbonaceous-fiber fabric as claimed in claim 1, which comprises carbonaceous fibers fused to one another.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The conductive carbonaceous-fiber fabric as claimed in claim 1, which comprises carbonaceous fibers bonded to one another with a binder or a product of carbonization of the binder.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The conductive carbonaceous-fiber fabric as claimed in claim 1, which contains a binder or a product of carbonization of the binder in an amount of from 0.01 to 25% by weight and comprises carbonaceous fibers bonded to one another by the binder present on the surface of the fibers or a carbonization product thereof.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The conductive carbonaceous-fiber fabric as claimed in claim 10, which contains the binder or a carbonization product thereof in an amount of from 0.01 to 7% by weight.

Claim 12 (Canceled).

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The conductive carbonaceous-fiber fabric as claimed in claim 1, wherein the carbonaceous fibers are ones obtained by spraying or applying a dispersion of fine particles of a semicured thermosetting resin, optionally conducting drying, pressing or both drying and pressing, and then completely curing the resin.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The conductive carbonaceous-fiber fabric as claimed in claim 1, which is a woven fabric.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The conductive carbonaceous-fiber fabric as claimed in claim 1, which has a degree of fluffing of from the second to the fifth grade in terms of the index as determined through a fluff grade test.

Claims 16-29 (Canceled).

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): A solid polymer electrolyte fuel cell which employs the conductive carbonaceous-fiber fabric as claimed in claim 1 as a gas diffusion layer material.

Claim 31 (Canceled).

Claim 32 (Original): A motor vehicle having the solid polymer electrolyte fuel cell as claimed in claim 30 mounted therein.

Claim 33 (Canceled).

Claim 34 (Original): A cogeneration power system having the solid polymer electrolyte fuel cell as claimed in claim 30 installed therein.

Claim 35 (Canceled).

Claim 36 (Previously Presented): A solid polymer electrolyte fuel cell which employs the conductive carbonaceous-fiber fabric as claimed in claim 14 as a gas diffusion layer material.

Claim 37 (Previously Presented): A solid polymer electrolyte fuel cell which employs the conductive carbonaceous-fiber fabric as claimed in claim 15 as a gas diffusion layer material.

Claim 38 (Previously Presented): The conductive carbonaceous-fiber fabric as claimed in claim 1, wherein the carbonaceous fibers are oriented.

Claim 39 (Previously Presented): The conductive carbonaceous-fiber fabric as claimed in claim 1, wherein the carbonaceous fibers are axially oriented to one another.

Claim 40 (Previously Presented): The conductive carbonaceous-fiber fabric as claimed in claim 1, wherein the carbonaceous fibers are twisted yarns.

Claim 41 (Canceled).

Claim 42 (Previously Presented): The conductive carbonaceous-fiber fabric as claimed in claim 1, wherein the point contact is present between two fibers.

Claim 43 (Previously Presented): The conductive carbonaceous-fiber fabric as claimed in claim 1, wherein the point contact is between a particle of a thermosetting resin and at least two fibers.

Claim 44 (Previously Presented): The conductive carbonaceous-fiber fabric as claimed in claim 1, wherein the binder is present in an amount of from 0.01 to 4% by weight based on the total weight of the conductive carbonaceous-fiber fabric.

Claim 45 (Previously Presented): The conductive carbonaceous-fiber fabric as claimed in claim 1, wherein the binder is present in an amount of from 0.01 to 7% by weight based on the total weight of the conductive carbonaceous-fiber fabric.

Claim 46 (Previously Presented): The conductive carbonaceous-fiber fabric as claimed in claim 1, wherein the point contact is 200 μm or smaller.

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Claim 47 (Previously Presented): The conductive carbonaceous-fiber fabric as claimed in claim 1, wherein the point contact is 50 μm or smaller.

Claim 48 (Canceled):

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BASIS FOR THE AMENDMENT

Claim 48 has been canceled. The limitations of Claim 48 have been included in Claim 1.

No new matter is believed to have been added by entry of this amendment. Entry and favorable reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of this amendment Claims 1-11, 13-15, 30, 32, 34, 36-40 and 42-47 will now be active in this application.